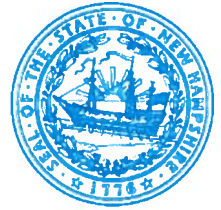




The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Clark B. Freise, Assistant Commissioner

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Richard Barry
Chair, House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Senate Bill 129, An Act requiring a portion of the renewable energy fund to benefit low to moderate income residential customers and relative to electric renewable energy classes and relative to the class rate for biomass

Dear Chair Barry and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 129, requiring a portion of the renewable energy fund to benefit low to moderate income residential customers, relative to electric renewable energy classes, relative to the class rate for biomass, and relative to requirements for incentive payments from the renewable energy fund. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

RSA 125-O:23, III(a) requires a certain percentage of the Energy Efficiency Fund to fund the low-income core energy efficiency program. Similarly, this bill would require a portion of the Renewable Energy Fund to fund a low-income renewable energy program. Incentivizing additional renewable energy is a worthy goal, as described in RSA 362-F:1 as follows:

“Renewable energy generation technologies can provide fuel diversity to the state and New England generation supply through use of local renewable fuels and resources that serve to displace and thereby lower regional dependence on fossil fuels. This has the potential to lower and stabilize future energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices. The use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy. In addition, employing low emission forms of such technologies can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions transported into New Hampshire and also generated in the state, thereby improving air quality and public health, and mitigating against the risks of climate change. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in low emission renewable energy generation technologies in New England and, in particular, New Hampshire, whether at new or existing facilities.”

www.des.nh.gov

29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The Honorable Richard Barry
Chair, House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
April 11, 2017
Page 2

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 129. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Craig Wright, Director of the Air Resources Division (craig.wright@des.nh.gov, 271-1088) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director (michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov, 271-6390).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CBF', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Clark B. Freise
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 129: Sens. Bradley, Feltes, Innis, Avard, French, Fuller Clark, Giuda, Reagan, Ward;
Reps. Richardson, Chandler, McConkey, Shepardson, Backus